2. The Technical Challenge: Khmer Search

This is the biggest risk in building an app. Most standard app databases cannot search Khmer well because Khmer has no spaces between words.

- *The Problem:* If a user searches "Peace" (□□□□□□□□), a standard app might fail to find it if it appears inside a longer sentence like "Worldpeace" (□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□).
- *The Solution:* You must tell your developer to use a search engine with **Khmer Word Segmentation** (like *Elasticsearch* or *Meilisearch*). If they just use a standard "SQL

To be honest, building a full mobile App (Android/iOS) is often **more expensive and complex** than people expect. While it is great for "reading," it is often terrible for "working" (translators usually need a big screen and keyboard, not a phone screen).

However, if you want to pursue an App, I recommend a **"Dual-Mode" App** strategy. This means you build *one* app that behaves differently depending on who logs in.

1. The App Concept: One App, Two Views

- **View A: The "Library" (For Friends)**
  - **Goal:** Reading and browsing.
  - **Features:** Beautiful book covers, "Read Now" button, dark mode for night reading, and—most importantly—**Download for Offline** (essential for users with unstable internet).
- **View B: The "Translator's Tool" (For Staff)**
  - **Goal:** Research and consistency.
  - **Features:** This view is hidden unless you log in as a "Translator." It features a **"Deep Search" bar**. When they type a phrase (e.g., "spiritual assembly"), it pulls up every sentence in history where that phrase was used, showing the English source next to the Khmer translation.

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- *The Solution:* You must tell your developer to use a search engine with **Khmer Word Segmentation** (like *Elasticsearch* or *Meilisearch*). If they just use a standard "SQL Database," the search will fail.

3. App vs. Web App (Recommendation)

Before you hire a developer, consider that a **Progressive Web App (PWA)** might be better than a native Mobile App.

Feature	**Native Mobile App (Android/iOS)**	**Web App (PWA)**
Cost	High ($5,000 - $20,000+)	Lower ($1,000 - $5,000)
Maintenance	**Hard.** You must constantly update it for new iPhones/Androids.	**Easy.** You update the server once, and it works everywhere.
For Translators	**Bad.** Hard to do serious work/typing on a small phone screen.	**Perfect.** Works on their laptop (for typing) *and* their phone.
Offline?	Yes, excellent offline support.	Yes, basic offline support is possible.

Summary Recommendation

I strongly suggest you **start with a Web App (Website)** that is "mobile responsive."

1. **For Friends:** They can open the link on their phone, and it looks just like an app.
2. **For Translators:** They can open it on their computers while they work in Word or OmegaT to search for phrases easily.

Would you like me to write a short "Project Brief" (a requirement list) for a Web App that you can send to a developer to get a price quote?

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